

Quality Assessment of SLR Observations

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The ILRS web-site includes summaries of satellite characteristics in the menu for each station. The quantity of the range measurements is denoted by the average number of full rate returns included in a normal point, and the quality is given by the average RMS of the full rate measurements contributing to the normal point. This information is contained within the data records and the summaries can be used to monitor the performance of a station, as well as to show characteristics of the station's instrumentation. The quality and quantity assessment summaries for all stations in the network are now also available on the web-site menus for each satellite. Inspection of this new perspective shows characteristics which are common to all stations, indicating the satellite signature, but some differences between stations tracking the same satellite are also noticeable. We will show examples of quality assessment plots given as functions of local time and range, and discuss the implications of these results on the accuracy of the satellite orbits determined by a network of different SLR tracking instruments.